

REMARKS

Initially, in the Office Action dated March 10, 2004, the Examiner objects to the title as not being descriptive. Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,301,320 (McAtee et al.).

By the present response, Applicants have canceled claims 1-5 without disclaimer. Applicants have submitted new claims 6 and 7 for consideration by the Examiner and assert that these claims do not contain any prohibited new matter. Claims 6 and 7 remain pending in the present application.

Title of the Invention

The Examiner asserts that the title of the invention is not descriptive and has required a new title. Applicants have submitted a new title of the invention to comply with the Examiner's request.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claims 1-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McAtee. Applicants have canceled these claims therefore rendering these rejections moot.

New Claims

Applicants have submitted new claims 6 and 7 for consideration by the Examiner and assert that these claims are patentable over the cited reference.

McAtee et al. discloses methods and apparatus for defining, executing, monitoring and controlling the flow of business operations. A designer first defines a workflow by providing a template of business activities that expresses the manner in

which these activities relate to one another. The system orchestrates performance of the task in accordance with the template, in so doing, it integrates various types of application software, and partitions tasks among various users and computers.

Regarding claims 6 and 7, Applicants submit that McAtee et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of these claims of, inter alia, a task template including a business process model and a data model, the business process model defining a task group and a task execution procedure necessary for the killer application, the data model defining data input/output information of the killer application; or a task execution management unit which indicates a task to be executed according to the business process model in the task template; or a task start instruction unit which sends an execution start signal to a business application or the killer application for executing the task in response to the indication from the task execution management unit; or a task completion detection unit which detects a signal indicating that the business applications or the killer application has completed the task; or a task result obtaining unit which obtains information indicative of an executed result of the task, converts the information according to an information conversion rule and delivers the information to the killer application, the information conversion rule defining relations between the data model relating to the killer application and data models relating to the business applications; or a plan information notification unit which informs the business applications of the processed result from the killer application while converting the result according to the information conversion rule, or performing all of the above

until reaching an end of the business process model. McAtee et al. merely relates to the flow of business operations. The limitations in the claims of the present application are different in the concept and workflow control from the disclosure of McAtee et al. According to the present invention, a general killer application is used and a template is defined according to the specification of the killer application. In contrast, McAtee et al. discloses the template being made without such precondition. Moreover, as recited in the limitations in the claims of the present application (and shown in Fig. 1), the present invention includes an application initiator, completion detector, data transformer, and plan informer, where the module works as cooperation functions with reference to the rules (107 and 108). The integration workflow (101) controls the execution of the killer application and the business applications with such cooperation functions. In contrast, McAtee et al. discloses the information for executing each module being stored in the template (database storage means) as execution parameters. The control means analyzes the execution parameters to execute the modules. McAtee et al. does not disclose or suggest any functions or modules corresponding to the cooperation functions, as recited in the claims of the present application.


Accordingly, Applicants submit that McAtee et al. does not disclose or suggest the limitations in the combination of each of new claims 6 and 7 of the present application. Applicants respectfully request that these claims be entered and allowed.

U.S. Application No. 09/773,568

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.39508X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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